

Committee on Government Reform

Tom Davis, Chairman



MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Government Reform Committee to Review Giving the
President Fast-Track Authority on Government Reorganization**
House Majority Leader to Testify on the need for Coherence in Government Structure

**What: Government Reform Committee Oversight Hearing
“Toward a Logical Governing Structure: Restoring Executive Reorganization
Authority”**

When: Thursday, April 3, 2003, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

Background:

The hearing will discuss the merits of restoring reorganization authority to the President and concerns regarding the proposal in an effort to resolve them.

Examining this authority is a critical component of the “President’s Management Agenda” and the Government Reform Committee’s goal of moving the federal government into the future. Reauthorization of executive reorganization authority is also a top priority in the Volcker Report on the public service. New technology, work-force training and retention, and organizational streamlining, such as this proposal, will not only provide savings to the American taxpayer, but also make our government more efficient for all citizens.

History:

In 1924, Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover recommended that Congress give the President the authority, under specified limits, to reorganize executive departments and agencies. In 1932, toward the end of his presidential term, President Hoover was successful in convincing

Congress to grant the President the authority to implement reorganizations to the executive branch to improve the economy and efficiency of the federal government.

Between 1932 and 1984, executive reorganization authority was reauthorized a number of times and was utilized by various presidents. For example, President Roosevelt created the Executive Office of the President in 1939; President Truman transferred the Public Roads Administration to the Department of Commerce in 1949; President Nixon transformed the Bureau of the Budget into the Office of Management and Budget in 1970; and President Carter reorganized the scattered federal emergency service functions into FEMA in 1979.

Despite interest in reorganization authority, both in the executive branch and in Congress, as a way to encourage the President to take the initiative in organizational management issues, momentum had not built up behind the authority until President Bush included it as part of the “President’s Management Agenda” in his FY2003 budget proposal, stating: “[t]he Administration will seek to re-institute permanent reorganization authority for the President to permit expedited legislative approval of plans to reorganize the Executive Branch.”

Panel One Witness:

The Honorable Tom DeLay (R-TX), Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

Panel Two Witnesses:

The Honorable David M. Walker, Comptroller General, General Accounting Office (GAO)

The Honorable Nancy P. Dorn, Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Panel Three Witnesses:

Mr. Dwight A. Ink, President Emeritus, Institute of Public Administration

Dr. Paul C. Light, Director, Center for Public Service, The Brookings Institute

Ms. Colleen M. Kelly, President, National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)

Mr. Mark D. Roth, General Counsel, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)

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